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Applicants : Pierangelo Jotti et al.  
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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

In the above-identified application for United States patent,  
please amend as follows.

**Amendments to the specification** are reflected in the attached  
substitute specification with markings and the clean version.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims  
which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Abstract** begin on Page 7 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on Page 8 of this paper.